

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims to read as follows:

Sub C1
B2

14. (amended) A method for preventing or treating Sjögren's syndrome which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of α -fodrin, a mutein thereof, an antigenic fragment thereof, or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Please cancel claim 15, without prejudice.

16. (amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the molecular weight of said α -fodrin, a mutein thereof, or an antigenic fragment thereof is from about 2K to about 240K.

B3

17. (amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said α -fodrin, a mutein thereof, or an antigenic fragment thereof contains or comprises an amino acid sequence substantially shown by Arg-Gln-Lys-Leu-Glu-Asp-Ser-Tyr-Arg-Phe-Gln-Phe-Phe-Gln-Arg-Asp-Ala-Glu-Glu-Leu (SEQ ID NO:1).

18. (amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the molecular weight of said α -fodrin, a mutein thereof, or an antigenic fragment thereof is from about 100K to about 140K.

Please add the following claim:

B4
B5

25. The method of claim 14, wherein Sjögren's syndrome is a symptom of inflammations of lacrimal or salivary glands.

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated January 26, 2001, claims 14-19 are pending and stand rejected. In the above amendment, claims 14, 16-18 have been amended to recite that the autoimmune disease is Sjögren syndrome and the antigenicity of the